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JULY MEETING.

The chair was taken at eleven o'clock, A.M., this day, Thursday, July 9, by the President; but, no quorum being present, the meeting was adjourned.

Donations were recorded for the last month from the American Antiquarian Society; the American Philosophical Society; the Chicago Historical Society; the Essex Institute; the Library of Congress; the Mercantile-Library Association of New York; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the publisher of the "Farmer and Gardener;" the State Library of Vermont; Mr. George Arnold; George P. Bradford, Esq.; Mr. Deloraine P. Corey; John F. Eliot, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Major L. A. H. Latour; Rev. William S. Perry; Hon. Henry Wilson; Mr. John Wilson, jun.; and from Messrs. Amory, Deane, Livermore, Robbins (C.), and Webb, of the Society.

AUGUST MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Aug. 13, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Chicago Historical Society; the Emancipation League; the Es-

sex Institute; the Indiana Asbury University; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the City of Roxbury; Mr. George Arnold; Mr. John Harvard Ellis; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; Mr. Hamilton Hill; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Mr. Arthur Lincoln; Rev. Edwin M. Stone; J. W. Thornton, Esq.; Mr. William P. Upham; Nathaniel Willis, Esq.; Hon. Henry Wilson; and from Messrs. Deane, Holmes, Robbins (C.), Saltonstall, Thomas, Webb, and Winthrop, of the Society.

A letter of acceptance was read from George Grote, Esq., of England, recently elected an Honorary Member.

The President announced the death of the Hon. John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky; remarking as follows:—

It may not have been forgotten, that, at our February meeting in 1859, the Hon. John J. Crittenden was unanimously chosen an Honorary Member of this Society. He was not elected, I need hardly say, on account of any peculiar claims which he was supposed to possess, either as a writer or as a student of history. He was known to some of us, indeed, who had been associated with him elsewhere, as being more than commonly familiar with the early as well as with the later history of our own land; and as having a strong taste, and even an eager relish, for the peculiarities and quaintnesses of the early history of New England in particular. But his name was selected for a place on our Honorary Roll on far different grounds. He was recognized as one of the few veteran statesmen, then left in our national councils, whose name had become identified with the honor and welfare of the American Union, and whose character and fame were destined to be among the treasures of our national history; and now that we are called to part with that name,

not only from our own roll, but from all its associations with earthly dignities and duties, we feel that we were not mistaken in our estimate of its historical significance.

Mr. Crittenden died at his residence in Frankfort, Ky., on the 25th of July last, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. Entering into the service of his country as a volunteer soldier in the war of 1812, his life, for more than half a century past, has been a continued record of public employment and patriotic effort. In the Legislature of his native State, and more recently as its governor; as a member of the Senate of the United States, in which he first took his seat forty-six years ago; as a member of the cabinet of more than one president; and, finally, as a representative in Congress,—an office which, like our own Adams, he felt it no compromise of his dignity to accept and hold as the closing honor of his life,—he was everywhere distinguished, admired, respected, and beloved. Whatever differences of opinion may from time to time have been entertained as to any particular measures which he proposed or advocated, his patriotism was never doubted, nor his devoted and disinterested fidelity to his conscience and his country ever impeached.

In the sad struggles which have grown out of the present unholy Rebellion, he was called on to play a part of no doubtful or secondary importance. Whether the precise measure of adjustment which he proposed, in order to arrest the unnatural blow which was aimed at the American Union, ought to have been or could have been adopted, and how far it would have been successful in accomplishing its object if it had been adopted, are questions on which there will never, probably, be a perfect unanimity of opinion. But the name of Mr. Crittenden will not the less proudly be associated, in all time to come, with an honest, earnest, and strenuous effort to avert the dread calamities of civil war, and to preserve unbroken the union and domestic peace of his beloved country.

As the leading statesman of the Border States, his course was full of delicacy and difficulty. It is hardly too much to say, that had he failed or faltered in sustaining the cause of the Government and of the Union, or had he sustained it on any other grounds or in any other way than he did, the State of Kentucky might have been lost to that cause. Nor can any one doubt that the loyal and noble attitude of that honored commonwealth at the present hour, on which the best hopes of the Union may even now hang, is, in a large degree, owing to his powerful influence, his inspiring appeals, and his unwavering patriotism.

This is not the occasion for speaking of the personal qualities which so endeared Mr. Crittenden to his friends, and which made friends for him of all who knew him. Others have possessed faculties more adapted for commanding and enforcing a compliance with their wishes, their ambition, or their will; but no one of our day or generation, certainly, had more of that magnetic attraction which secured the willing sympathy, confidence, and co-operation of all within its reach. The charm of his manner, the cordiality and generosity of his whole nature, the music of his voice, and the magic power of his eloquence, as well in conversation as in formal discourse, will be among the lasting traditions of the circles in which he moved; and his death will be long felt, not only as a great public loss at such a period of his country's need, but as a personal sorrow to all who have enjoyed the privilege of his friendship.